



NEPAL TOURISM NEWS

A Quarterly Publication of Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation (MoCTCA), Nepal



Issue 2/July 2012



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Pushpalal National Awards 2012 Conferred

Rt Hon'ble President Dr Rambaran Yadav, in a function organized by Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, honoured 3 people from various walks of life with Pushpalal National Awards, 2012 for their contribution to the



development of history, political thought and literature. The President conferred the awards on various personalities amidst a program. Mr Govindaraj Gyawali was awarded with the Pushpalal National Award on political/theoretical thematic area. Late Kedar Pradhan was posthumously awarded on history and Mr Anandadev Bhatta was awarded on literature. The Pushpalal National Award on political/theoretical thematic area carried a purse of Rs. 100,000 and a letter of appreciation and other two awards carried a purse of Rs. 50,000 and a letter of appreciation each.

National and Regional Talent Awards Conferred

Rt Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr Baburam Bhattarai honoured 22 people from various walks of life with National and Regional Talent Awards for their contribution to the development of art, culture, language, music



and drama. The Prime Minister conferred the awards on various personalities. Shyam Tamot, Prof. Dr Surendra KC, Krishna Prasad Parajuli and Kalu Kumale were awarded with the National Talent Awards, which carried Rs. 100,000 and a letter of appreciation each for their contribution in the development of drama and music, culture, language and art respectively. Likewise 18 people received the Regional Talent Award, carrying a purse of Rs. 50,000 and letter of appreciation each. These Awards were conferred amidst a program organized by the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation to mark the 199th birth anniversary of Pioneer Poet Bhanu Bhakta Acharya.

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Hon'ble Posta Bahadur Bogati
Minister for Culture, Tourism & Civil Aviation

"Nepal shall be developed as an attractive tourist destination in the world through the promotion of cultures/natural heritages and safe air transport."

Cultural diversities and natural beauties are the basis of tourism in Nepal. We need to promote our natural and cultural heritages to establish Nepal as world's leading tourist destination.

We should diversify tourism products and services to increase the number of inbound tourists and raise its contribution to national economy. For easier accessibility to the tourism destinations, air transport will be enhanced making it safe and reliable. We should promote our tourism products through various activities. As we are celebrating Visit Lumbini Year 2012, effective promotion of this historical and cultural site will be sped up further. Likewise, specific programs and campaigns from 2013 will be launched in each of the tourism zones to meet the targets of Tourism Vision 2020.

Sharing the benefits of this sector with rural people will be ensured through conducting various rural-

based tourism development programs like homestay. Some of the important programs for this year are preservation and promotion of tangible and intangible cultural heritages, such as world heritage and archaeological sites, and opening of information centers in tourism zones.

Civil aviation rules and regulations and safety measures will be updated as per international conventions. The construction of proposed Second International Airport, capacity enhancement of Tribhuvan International Airport, upgradation of Gautam Buddha (Bhairahawa) and Pokhara Airports into regional international airports and upgradation of remote areas airports will be given priority. The Ministry will strengthen its institutional capacity and through coordinating with other sectors, tourism sector will be developed integrately.

"Cultural diversity and natural beauty are the identities of Nepal."

Preservation & Promotion of Cultures

Nepal is rich in cultural heritages. We need to preserve and uphold the cultural diversities as our pride. We should link cultures with tourism and spread recognition of Nepal all over the world through the protection and promotion of both tangible and intangible cultural heritages.

Tourism Infrastructures Development

Tourism need accessibility, accomodation and amenities of the destinations. Proper accesibility can be achieved through land and air transport services. We should develop Nepal as a leading holiday destination by ensuring safe and



Dr. Ganesh Raj Joshi, Secretary
Ministry for Culture, Tourism & Civil Aviation

reliable air services. We also need standard hotels/resorts and better hospitability to attract more tourists. Collective and coodinated efforts of all stakeholders will bring about the results.

Capacity Enhancement

Restructuring the Ministry and its entities is necessary for proper cultural promotion and tourism development, ensuring participation and partnership with local bodies and tourism stake holders. Establishment of a tourism office in each of tourism zones is inevitable for development and promotion of tourist destinations in

regionally balanced way. As tourism sector itself is a multi-dimensional sector, we need to support human capacity developement within the government institutions as well as human resource development in tourism sector as a whole.

Institutional Restrengthening

New trends, products and marketing strategies are emerging in world tourism. Many institutional arragements of this sector are outdated. So, some Acts, Laws and Bylaws need to be changed and reformed so as to face the challenges of our time.

National and.....

Prof. Nutandhar Sharma, Min Shris Magar, Dr Narayan Prasad Sangroula and Prof. Dr Dilliraj Sharma were awarded under the culture category. Similarly, Juddha Bahadur Rai, Kuber Gadtaula, Mahashankar Devkota and Leeladhar Baskota received awards for their contribution in drama and music category. Hemanta Hamal, Man Bahadur Tamang Dong, Naradmani Hartamchali 'Kalang', Ganesh Kumar GC and Puran Khadka were awarded under the fine arts category.

Dhirendra Premarshi, Rajbhai Jakami, Lalita Doshi, Dr Deepak Gautam and Lok Bahadur Ghaudhary 'Lucky' received regional talent awards under the category of language and art. On the occasion the Prime Minister said that it was responsibility of society to preserve and promote arts and culture. Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Hon'ble Posta Bahadur Bogati was present at the program. Addressing the program the minister said art, literature and culture were the mirrors of the nation.

Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha

Lumbini, situated in Rupandehi district of Lumbini Zone in Western Nepal, is about 20 kilometers from Gautam Buddha Airport, (Bhairahawa) and 27 kilometers from the Indian border (Sunauli). From Kathmandu it is about 300 kilometers (South-West) and a seven to eight hour drive by road.

The World Heritage Committee decided to inscribe Lumbini as a World Heritage Site in 1997 on the basis of UNESCO criteria (iii) and (VI). As the birthplace of the Buddha, the sacred area of Lumbini is one of the holiest places of one of the world's great religions, and its remains contain important evidence about the nature of Buddhist pilgrimage centers from a very early period.

Most of the Buddhist literature places Lumbini between the Sakya kingdom of Kapilavastu (28 kilometers West of Lumbini) and the Koliya kingdom (45 kilometers East of Lumbini). Present Tilaurakot was the capital city of the Sakyas and Devadaha, the capital city of the Koliyas. Literature mentions that Lumbini was a beautiful pleasure or recreational garden (known as Lumbini Kannan, Lumbini Vatika, Lumbini Upavana, Lumbini Pradimokshavana, Lumbini Chittalatavana etc.) collectively maintained by both the kingdoms during the lifetime of the Buddha.

The Buddha and Lumbini

On the full moon day of the month of Vaisakha (May/June), 623 BC, Maya Devi, the consort of King Suddhodana of Kapilavastu, going to her maternal home in Devadaha to deliver her first child, arrived in Lumbini on her way. She enjoyed the beauty of the Lumbini garden, attended by her servants as she walked slowly and heavily with child, but suddenly she felt the pangs of labour. Realizing that the time of delivery had come, she bathed in the *Sakya Puskarini* located almost at the center of the garden and proceeded twenty-five steps to the north, seeking some support. There was a beautiful *ashoka* tree (*Saraca indica*) in full bloom, and grasping a branch of that tree, she gave birth to her child. This newly born child named Siddhartha, at the age of 35 was enlightened and turned the Wheel of the Law (*Dhamma*) later became known to generations to come simply as the Buddha, the apostle of peace.

A Centre for Pilgrimage

After the Mahaparinirvana (death) of the Buddha, Lumbini became an important site for Buddhist pilgrimage near and far, witnessing a continuous flow of persons who came with faith and devotion, seeking purification of their mind. There are no records or evidence mentioning visits made by any high authorities before the 3rd century BC, but the birthplace has yielded ample cultural deposits belonging to 6th/5th centuries BC.

Emperor Asoka's Pilgrimage to Lumbini

According to Buddhist tradition, as preserved in the *Divyavadana*, Asoka started on a pilgrimage to Lumbini in the company of his preceptor, Upagupta. On their arrival, Upagupta, pointed to the spot where the Blessed One was born. The spot was marked by 'a block of stone'. To commemorate his visit he left behind monuments



Basanta Bidari, Chief Archaeologist,
Lumbini Development Trust

to propagate the Dhamma (the teachings of the Buddha). Here in Lumbini, he erected a stone pillar with inscription mentioning he himself made a royal pilgrimage where Sakyamuni was born. He worshipped the birth-spot and to commemorate his visit erected a stone pillar and reduced the taxes of Lumbini village.

After Asoka's pilgrimage Lumbini was visited by many Chinese pilgrims and left the descriptions of the site during their visit. Some of them are:

Seng Tsai, A Yuch-Chih of the Chin Dynasty (265-420 AD) was the first Chinese to visit Lumbini in between 350-375 AD. Fa shien, a Buddhist monk native to Shansi province in China, came to Lumbini at the beginning of the fifth century AD. Yuan Chwang (Huiyen Tsang) the most important pilgrim monk arrived Lumbini in the 7th century AD. After a small interval of time other visitors from China arrived, among them Wu-kung and Fang-chih, in about 764 AD. There were many pilgrims of less repute who found their way to the land of the Buddha before and after Fa-shien, Yuan chwang and It-tsing. Mr. Liang-chi-chao states that about 169 Chinese pilgrims during the six hundred years, i.e. between the third and the eight centuries of the Christian era visited Nepal and India from China. Dr. A. A. Führer and Khadga Shumsher JBR in December 1913, 1896 rediscovered and recognized the Asoka pillar and its famous inscription. Babu P.C. Mukherji conducted a brief exploration and excavation in 1899. He excavated the southern



side of the Maya Devi Temple and exposed carved brick masonry. He successfully identified the nativity sculpture where Maya Devi is represented holding on to a branch of the tree at the time of delivery, while other attendants are variously

helping her and the infant Bodhisattva.

The Department of Archaeology (DOA) undertook responsibility for conducting excavations, research and conservation work from 1972 to 1985. Since the formation of the Lumbini Development Trust in 1985, the development activities at Lumbini including excavation, conservation and exploration have continued in collaboration with DOA.

The temple was constructed in different phases, the first of which saw the use of burnt bricks as far back to the 3rd century BC. Other phases of construction occurred in later periods. The greatest discovery of this excavation was the Marker Stone which is placed almost in the center of the structural complex.

The Physical Development of Lumbini

The visit of the then Secretary General of the United Nations, late U Thant to Lumbini in 1967 became a landmark in the history of the physical development of Lumbini. U Thant, a devout Buddhist from Myanmar, believed Lumbini should be a place where religious and secular leaders could work together to create a world free from hunger and strife. Deeply impressed by Lumbini's sanctity, he discussed with the Government of Nepal how best to develop Lumbini into an international pilgrimage and tourism center.

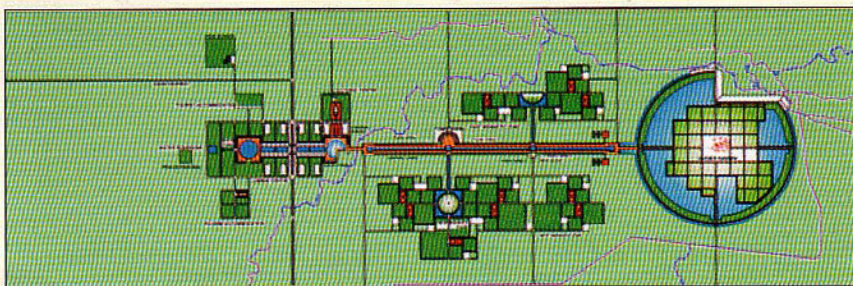
U Thant called upon the international community to help in the effort and the fifteen-nation International Committee for the Development of Lumbini was formed in 1970 in New York. In 1972 Prof. Kenzo Tange (the world-famous architect from Japan), was awarded consultancy for the preparation of the Master Plan for the development of Lumbini by the United Nations.

In 1978 the Master Plan of Lumbini was finalized and approved by the UN and Government of Nepal. In 1985 the Lumbini Development Trust Act was enacted and the Lumbini Development Trust (LDT) was formed. Since then the Trust has been responsible for the implementation of the Master Plan and for the overall development of Lumbini.

The Master Plan

The Master Plan transforms three square miles of flat and empty land into an expression of the Buddha's universal message of peace and compassion, creating a sculpted landscape to make his teachings accessible to all of humanity. The Master Plan provides a seat of learning and a place to experience the spirit of Buddhism. The plan has multi-dimensional aspects. It has the task not only of building up of the area but also of restoring religious sites or shrines, and of uncovering historical and archaeological facts as well.

The three-square-mile area, oriented along the north-south axis, encompasses three zones, each covering one square mile, the whole united by a 1.5-km-long pedestrian walkway and canal (the central link). The southern square mile is called the Sacred Garden, the middle one the Monastic Enclave, and the northern one is New Lumbini Village. The recurring circles enclosing squares in the landscape express the purity and simplicity of the mandala, a mystic symbol of the universe.



The Sacred Garden

The object of creating an atmosphere of peace, tranquility, universality and clarity consistent with the idea of the birth of the Buddha is the heart of the design, focused in the south section of the Master Plan. The Sacred Garden shelters ancient monuments, with the Asoka pillar at its center, and revived plant life around the ancient ruins. The tranquil and undisturbed beauty of the plants life serves to create a reverential atmosphere in which to experience the Buddha's universal message. The sacred area, as it is surrounded by the pond and a circular levee link is protected against inundation. It is not permitted to build any kind of new constructions. The idea is to preserve the site's archaeological value.

The Monastic Enclave

The monastic zones are places for worship and the study of the Buddha's teachings of universal peace and compassion, which can be applied to life in today's world. Here forty-two plots of land are set aside, sheltered within a green forest near the Sacred Garden.

The eastern monastic zone comprises 13 plots for Theravada communities. Some Theravada countries have completed the construction of monasteries and stupas in this zone; others have yet to do so. Monasteries of Thailand, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and two Nepalese organizations are located in this side.

The western monastic zone consists of 29 plots. Germany, India, Nepal, South Korea, Austria, Vietnam, France, Japan, Singapore, and Canada are allocated in this zone.

The Meditation Centers

These centers guide students of Buddhism towards intuitive knowledge and the practice of compassion and equanimity. These centers extend into the forested area to the east and west of the Central Link, close to the Sacred Garden.

The Cultural Center

The cultural center is a place to assemble study and work in pursuit of world peace. It is composed of five of the major buildings of the entire Lumbini Development Area. These are the Museum, Auditorium, Library, Research Institute and Research Scholar's Accommodations. These buildings are intended to increase the cultural diversity of activities that take place in Lumbini.

The Lumbini Center & the New Lumbini Village

Lumbini Center is located at the intersection of the Bhairahawa-Taulihawa Road, which is expected to be the principal approach route to Lumbini. The Center will serve as the initial reception point for visitors to Lumbini and will contain information and orientation facilities, as well as restaurants and a cafeteria, a telephone office, a small bank for money exchange, police and fire stations and rest-rooms. New Lumbini Village, located two and half a miles north of the Asoka pillar, is the project area's gateway to the outside world. It offers a selection of lodgings, restaurants, shops and other tourist facilities to fit every budget. There are certain plots to accommodate Lumbini project employees, along with a high school.

Landscaping and Biodiversity

Lumbini not only promotes its aesthetic and spiritual values but also attracts naturalists with its richness of flora and fauna.

There are a wide variety of shrubs, herbs, flowers and fruit-bearing species. More than 250 species of birds (including cranes), snakes, and lizards and the endangered nilgai antelope (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), make up Lumbini's unique habitat.

Visit Lumbini Year 2012

Government of Nepal has declared this year 2012 as Visit Lumbini Year to promote the historical and archaeological sites which are associated with the life of the Buddha. Right Hon'ble President Dr Ram Baran Yadav inaugurated the campaign at a special program in Lumbini on 14th January 2012. The chief objective of 'Visit Lumbini Year 2012' is to promote Lumbini as the birthplace of Lord Buddha and to spread Buddha's message of peace and brotherhood in the global community. The government has targeted 500,000 tourists to Lumbini during the Visit Lumbini Year.

ICAO President visited Nepal

Mr. Roberto Kobeh Gonzalez visited Nepal from 4-7 June 2012 on a special invitation of the Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation. He paid a courtesy call on Rt Hon'ble President Dr Rambaran Yadav on 6 June. Mr Gonzalez also paid a courtesy call on Rt Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr Baburam Bhattarai on the same day. During the meetings, Mr Gonzalez expressed the need of updating civil aviation regulations as per Nepal's commitments on various international conventions. Prime Minister Dr Bhattarai expressed his commitments towards these matters.

Mr. Gonzalez also paid a courtesy call on Hon'ble Posta Bahadur Bogati, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation on 7 June. During the meeting, Mr Gonzalez expressed the need of developing civil aviation rules and regulations as per international conventions. He suggested to strengthening the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) for ensuring aviation safety by separating its regulatory and service function. He also suggested for approving international conventions and protocol on civil aviation and creating a conducive environment for development and retention of competent human resources for effective regulation of the aviation sector. Hon'ble Minister stated that the suggestions would be taken seriously and expressed his commitments for approval of the conventions and updating the civil aviation rules as per the international standards.

On 4 June, 2012 President Gonjalez joined a special program organized by CAAN and held discussions on the development

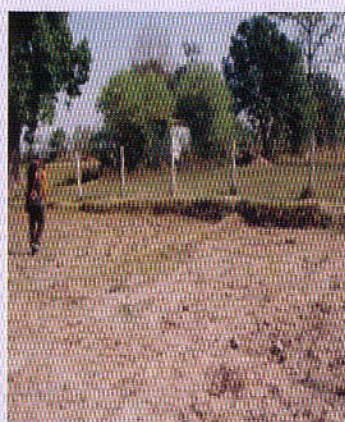


of civil aviation sector in Nepal. Dr Ganeshraj Joshi, Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, expressed his commitments over the implementation of the ICAO rules and standards. He also informed that the government has implemented Air Transport Capacity Enhancement Project under the Ministry, which is funded by Asian Development Bank. High-ranking officials from the Ministry, CAAN, representatives from airlines operators and civil aviation experts were present at the function.

Archaeological Excavation at Panditapur and Bhawanipur

Panditpur and Bhawanipur, located between Rohini River and Narayani River, were known as Koliyanagar in ancient time. Devadaha and Ramagrama were mentioned in Buddhist text.

According to the Mahaparinirvana sutta, after the death of Gautam Buddha, his relic was divided into eight parts, of which Koliya of Ramagrama got one part. Department of Archaeology (DOA) took initiation to complete the contour map of Panditapur, a place 9 km west from Ramagrama Stupa in Nawalparasi district. It has huge mound of 600*600m area. Bhawanipur is in Rupendehi district where brick structure appears in the ground. There are Shiva temple, a stone pillar and a Mayadevi temple. The sculptures inside the temple belong to medieval time. It was called Bagortappa. Dr. Hoey supposed this place as Devadaha. Important findings like terracotta ring well of Sunga period, greyware potsherds, and medieval glass bangles, t.c. miniature pot, mask, beads, human and animal figurines of Kusan period have been found from Panditpur. Likewise, brick structures, room with brick bats rammed floor and ritual animal figures like tc elephants and horses were found from Bhawanipur. A red sand stone pillar which was said Ashokan pillar like Lumbini proved a Shivalinga, tc bull, red potsherds, beads, stone sculpture of Ganesh, headless female, wattle and daub have been found from Bhawanipur. The duration of



excavation was for short time. Both archaeological sites need further excavation for more information and result.

Tenzing-Hillary National Award Conferred

Hon'ble Posta Bahadur Bogati, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, honoured Mr Sunar Bahadur Gurung, Lapraka-5, Gorkha with Tenzing-Hillary Award for his outstanding contribution on promoting trekking and mountain tourism of Nepal in the world. The Award carries a purse of Rs.50,000 and a letter of appreciation. The Award was conferred on a program organized by the Ministry to mark the the 5th Mt Everest (Sagarmatha) Day on 29 May, 2012.

Tourism Trainings Conducted

Mountain Academy Nepal (MAN) conducted trainings on "Tourism & Environment" in Humla and Solukhumbu Districts. The 15-days training in Humla District, which was from March 19 to April 2, 2012, had thirty three participants from 27 village development committees of the district. Mr Balkrishna Ghimire, Joint Secretary of MoCTCA, presented certificates to the participants. Mrs. Lakpa Phuti Sherpa, Executive Director of the Academy congratulated the participants and made commitments to continue such trainings in other parts of the country in future. MAN also conducted a 3-days orientation program on tourism and environment management in Garma Village of Solukhumbu District. Forty peoples of the Garma village participated in the orientation program. MAN is a mountain studies' academy formed under MoCTCA to promote



mountain tourism through human resources development. It has been building its facilities in Garma, Solukhumbu.

Likewise, Taragaon Development Committee conducted trainings on "Homestay Management" in Doghare and Krishna thumki (Jhapa), Hatwagadhi (Bhojpur), Bode (Bhaktapur), Chandannath (Jumla), Bugmati and Khokana (Lalitpur), Chitlang (Makawanpur) and Chulipug (Kalikot). Altogether 303 peoples were participated in those trainings. Among them 159 persons were female.

Leave Tourism Program Concluded

The Leave Tourism Program aims at promoting domestic tourism by providing travel concessions to the government employees participating in an organized group tour. The Ministry prepared a specific Guidelines which has provision for providing allowances to the employees and their family members for a six-days trip in annually scheduled tourist sites. More than 100 employees of different ministries accompanied by their family members participated in the program for the fiscal year 2068/069.

New facilities added at Jomsom and Tumlingtar Airports

Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) has installed One Man Position Tower Console at Jomsom and Tumlingtar Airports. CAAN has also completed installation and testing of a Two Men Position Tower Console at Simara. It also installed



Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) Light System at Tumlingtar and Airfield Lighting System (AFL) System at Simara and Dhangadhi.



Ropai Festival Observed

MoCTCA with Regional Agriculture Development Directorate and District Agriculture Development Offices organized **9th National Paddy Day** and **Ropai Festival** in Pokhara and Kathmandu on June 29, 2012 (Ashad 15). The objective of the program was to promote Agro-tourism as Agriculture is also a part of the lifestyle of the Nepali people. Internal as well as international tourists, farmers and local people attended the program. Farmers, agricultural workers and various organizations related to organic farming, were felicitated at the program.



DESTINATIONS

Gosainkunda, a holy place with natural beauty

Gosainkunda is one of the most famous pilgrimage destinations of Nepal. The lake is situated at an altitude of about 4,360m. The lake remains frozen for 6 months in winter months of October to June. There are other beautiful lakes such as Saraswati, Bhairav, Surya, Ganesh Kunda etc.

Attractions

Hindu mythology attributes Gosainkunda as the abode of Hindu deities Lord Shiva and his consort Goddess Gauri. The Kunda (Lake) is believed to have formed from the digging of the land by the Trishul (trident) of Lord Shiva. After drinking the poison from *Samudra manthan* (the Churning of the Ocean) Lord Shiva desperately wanted cold water to quench the overwhelming heat. Its holy waters are considered of particular significance during Gangadashahara and the sacred thread festival *Janai Purnima* when thousands of pilgrims from Nepal and India visit the area.

The trail to Gosainkunda provides excellent sunset and sunrise views of the Langtang and Ganesh Himal as well as distinct flora and fauna. Surrounded by high mountains on the north and the south, the lake is grand and picturesque.

Access

The best approach to Gosainkunda is through Dhunche, the district headquarter of Rasuwa. Which is located 132km to the northeast of Kathmandu. Dhunche is linked with Kathmandu by a motorable road. The first day involves a climb to reach Chandan Bari, which is at a height of about 3200 meters. On the second day, one reaches Lauribinayak at about 3700 meters. At this point, some trekkers choose to climb ahead to Gosainkunda, though altitude sickness is a concern due to rapid ascent.

Accommodation:

There are plenty of tea house, hotels & lodges along the route. Alternatively, trekkers may also trek from Sundarjal, which lies on the outskirts of Kathmandu Valley.

Chitlang, a respite from routine

Chitlang is located to the south west of Kathmandu Valley in mid-hills called Mahabharat range and very close to Kathmandu. The village is reachable within the 4-5 hrs by walk and one and half hours village road drive from Thankot Godam. The alternative route from Kathmandu Valley is Kalanki-Pharphing-Phakel-Taukhel-Chitlang. From outside the Valley Hetauda-Bhimphedi-Toukhel-Chitlang is another route.



An inscription was found in Toukhel, Ward 6 of Chitlang VDC, established by King Amshubarma (in sambat 37). According to the inscription, Amshubarma had given the land to shepherds and established a settlement in Toukhel, Nhulgaun and Kunchhal. Some historians believe that these people called Gopalis, are the descendants of rulers of Gopal era. The main ethnic population in the area is Newar, Tamang, Arya Khas etc.

Natural Beauties: Major attractions for the visitors are Hiking, Jungle treks, Bird Watching, Visit to Goat Farming etc.

Historical: Emperor Ashok, who had visited Nepal, had erected Ashok pillars and also constructed a Chaitya at the Chilanche of Chitrapur in Chitlang.

Religious/Cultural: Chitlang has a rich Newar culture. The Chitlang dialect of Nepal Bhasa is spoken almost exclusively in this region. One of such language is Balami language. Some major religious sites are Kalidevi Temple, Shivalaya, Bhandarkharka, Swachhanda Bhairav Temple, Narayanhiti Temple, Krishna Mandir, Sarswati Temple, Bhimsen Temple, Champakeswor Temple and Shilalekh, Gorakhanath, Mahalaxmi Kapugaon, Kuchabu (Kotghar), Ashok Chaitya and inscription of the Lichhivi period, Buddha Chaitya, Bais Dhara and Majhgaon Satdhara. Khadga Jatra, Godavari Mela (celebrated once in every 12 years during July / August) and Gunla are some of the festivities observed there.

Accommodation: For the accommodation homestay facilities are available there. During homestay, one can enjoy local foods & beverages. Goat cheese is famous product of Chitlang.



TOURISM VISION 2020

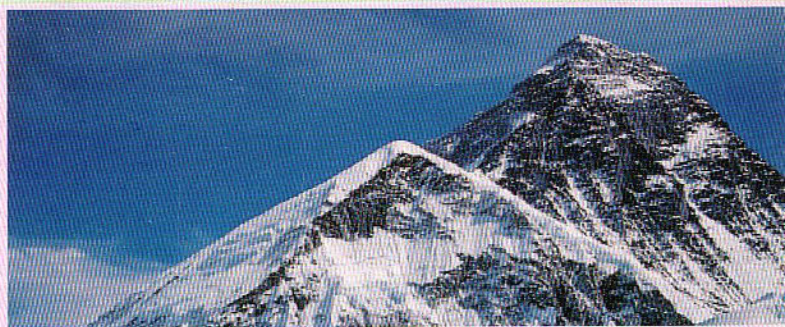
(Continued from Previous Bulletin)

Goals

- Increase annual international tourist arrivals to Nepal to two million by 2020.
- Augment economic opportunities and increase employment in tourism sector to one million.

Objectives

- ❖ To improve livelihoods of the people across the country by developing integrated tourism infrastructure, increasing tourism activities and products, generating employment in the rural areas enhancing inclusiveness of women and other deprived communities, and spreading the benefits of tourism to the grassroots level,
- ❖ To develop tourism as a broad-based sector by bringing tourism into the mainstream of Nepal's socio-economic development, supported by a coherent and enabling institutional environment,



Strategies

1. Strategies related to objective no. 1: Improving Livelihoods and Spreading Benefits of Tourism

1.1 Based on the strength of the tourism site, volume of tourism activities, and existing infrastructures, on district in each ecological belt and development region will be selected for tourism epicenter (hubs) as below:

S.N.	Development	Ecological Belt			
		Mountain	Hills	Terai	Total
1	Eastern	Solukhumbu	Ilam	Sunsari	3
2	Central	Rasuwa	Kathmandu/ Kavre/ Sinhupalchowk	Chitwan	5
3	Western	Manang	Kaski	Kapilvastu/ Rupandehi	4
4	Mid-western	Mugu	Pyuthan	Bardia	3
5	Far-western	Baghang	Doti	Kanchanpur	3
	Total	5	7	6	18

- ❖ To expand and extend tourism products and services in new and potential areas of Nepal by enhancing community capacity to participate in tourism activities,
- ❖ To publicize, promote and enhance the image of Nepal in international tourism source markets,
- ❖ To enhance the flight safety and aviation security, extend air connectivity, and improve capacity and facilities of national and international airports,
- ❖ To attract new investment in creating new tourism facilities, products and services.

- 1.2 Around each hub, identify and develop potential tourist places as tourism satellite sites,
- 1.3 Develop and promote new tourism products such as The Great Himalaya Trail,
- 1.4 Increase government spending in tourism sector to create infrastructures e.g. airports, trails, tourism attractions and facilities,
- 1.5 Attract investment from private sector in creating tourism facilities e.g. hotels, cable car, theme parks etc.
- 1.6 Extend tourism activities in remote and rural areas of the country,
- 1.7 Improve coordination among Human Resource Development institution e.g. NATHM, CTEVT and private institution,
- 1.8 Provide capacity building for service providers and improve service standards,
- 1.9 Emphasize needs based human resource development initiatives,
- 1.10 Launch awareness campaigns in order to preserve and conserve intellectual creations by marginalized groups and women,
- 1.11 Encourage affirmative actions to involve marginalized groups and women to engage them in tourism activities through training and skill development programs.

(to be continued.....)



New Trekking Trails Enhance Accessibility

Tourism Infrastructure Development Project (TIDP), a wing under MoCTCA, has been developing sustainable trekking/hiking trails in various tourist destinations. The main objective of such eco-trails is to protect the environment and to meet the needs and expectations of local community. The construction of trekking trails is the combination of dry dressed stone's steps, dry stone masonry in retaining walls and drainage of dry stone soling. It is labor-intensive in nature and uses local labor, material and technology. Some of the completed works are:

1. *Bhudhanilkantha- Nuwakot- Gosaikunda Trekking Trail:*

Nuwakot- Gosaikunda Trekking Trail: This trail circumference the hills around Kathmandu Valley. The trail is further aimed to link to Gosaikunda, one of the major tourist destinations of Nepal located in Rasuwa District (See Page 8 DESTINATIONS for more information). Two sections of the trail has been completed.

i. **The Samundratar-Sundra Devi Section (12.4 Km)**



ii. **The Patichaur-Baghdwar-Chap Bhanjyang, Sikre - Mahakali section (9.5 Km.)**



2. *Makawanpur-Tistung Trekking Trail:*

Makawanpur-Tistung Trekking trail is aimed to join the Kathmandu Valley and Tistung, which passes through Bhaleswor, Deurali and to Simpani (Chhap Danda) of Makawanpur District. The construction and improvement works of Bhaleswor-Deurali-Simpani (3.4 Km.) Section of the trail has been completed.

3. *Shivapuri- Nagarjun -Daha chock Trekking Trail*

The Trail passes through Dahachowk - Indra Daha - Nursery Bhim Dhunga - Shivapuri National Park. Construction and rehabilitation of Dahachowk - Bhimdhunga - Nagarjun Section (7 Km.) has been completed.

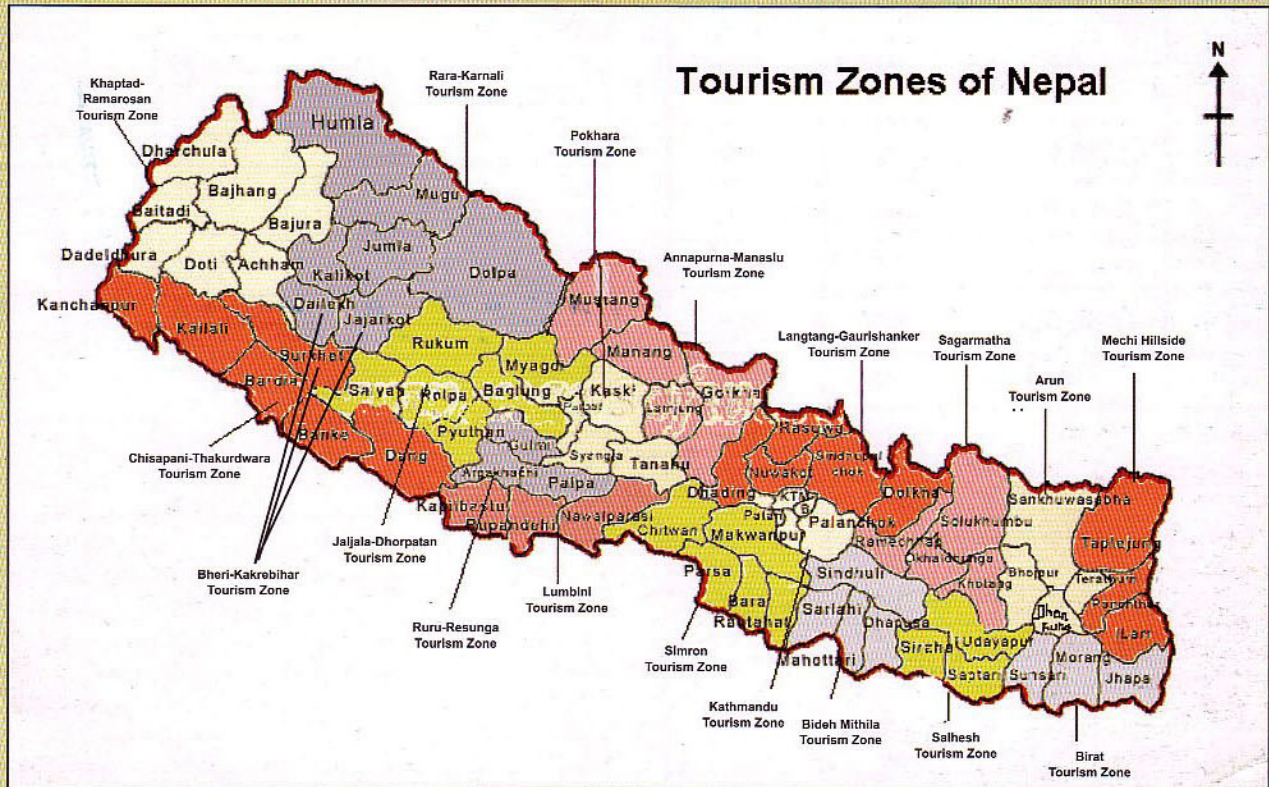


TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE

Tourism Centers Under construction

The Ministry through its wing Tourism Infrastructure Development Project (TIDP) has been preparing master plans of tourism zones. The building of tourism information centers in 4 tourism zones, namely Arun (Bhojpur), Ruru-Resunga (Gulmi), Sisne-Jalajala-Dhorpatan (Rolpa), and Khaptad-Ramaroshan (Achham) are under construction.

The government has also decided to form Bheri-Kakrebihar as a new tourism zone, which covers Surkhet, Dailekh and Jajarkot districts.



In Praise of Lumbini, Lord Buddha said:

"Ananda, this place (Lumbini) is where the Tathagata (Buddha himself) was born, this is a place which should be (visited and) seen by a person of devotion and which will cause awareness and apprehension of the nature of impermanence. At this place, Ananda, those who are on a pilgrimage to (this) shrine, if they should die with devotion in their hearts during the course of the pilgrimage, will after (their) death and dissolution of the body be reborn in a good destination, a fortunate celestial (deva) realm." (Mahaparinirvana Sutta).



Table 1: Total Tourist Arrival By Month for January-June, 2011-2012

Month	Year		% Change
	2011	2012*	
January	42,622	52,503	23.2
February	56,336	66,447	17.9
March	67,565	89,139	31.9
April	59,751	69,803	16.8
May	46,202	50,311	8.9
June	46,115	53,627	16.3
Total	318,591	381,830	19.8

* Provisional

Table 3 : Facts of Civil Aviation in Nepal (upto June 2012)

International Airports	1
Domestic Airports	53
All Seasons Airports	16
Nepali Airlines with international operation	2
International Airlines Operating in Nepal	29
Countries having bilateral Air Service Agreement	36
Bilateral Air Seats (Per Year)	6500,000
Airlines with Domestic Service (Fixed wing + Rotor wing)	17

Table 4 : Passenger Movement of Ultra Light, Pokhara (January - June)

Month	2011	2012
January	216	582
February	397	424
March	287	401
April	401	489
May	367	453
June	402	93

Source : Civil Aviation Office, Pokhara

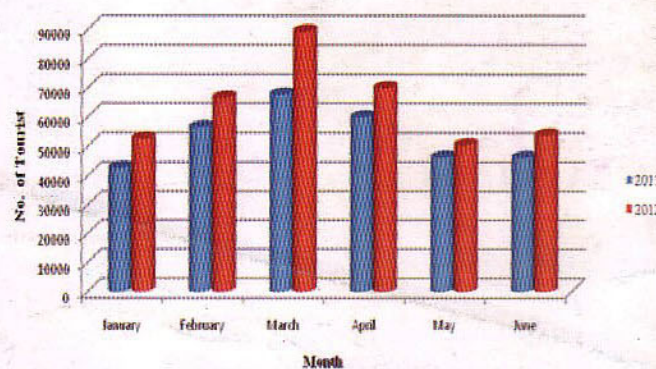
Table 2: Tourist Arrival By Nationality and Mode of Transportation for January-June, 2012

Nationality	Land	Air	Total
Australia	1,147	7,541	8,688
Austria	135	1,244	1,379
Bangladesh	270	8779	9,049
Belgium	157	2,251	2,408
Canada	730	5,654	6,384
China	11,317	22,903	34,220
Denmark	218	2,788	3,006
France	1,012	10,234	11,246
Germany	1,662	11,661	13,323
Israel	232	2,555	2,787
Italy	406	4,364	4,770
Japan	1,369	11,265	12,634
Malaysia	258	3,094	3,352
Netherlands	1,467	3,516	4,983
New Zealand	119	1,140	1,259
Norway	112	1,398	1,510
Pakistan	-	2,310	2,310
Singapore	180	2,210	2,390
Sri Lanka	20,642	843	21,485
Switzerland	577	2,952	3,529
Spain	446	3,647	4,093
Sweden	358	1,431	1,789
South Korea	3,647	10,000	13,647
Chinese Taipei	709	3,238	3,947
Thailand	15,076	3,216	18,292
U.S.A	1,958	19,942	21,900
U.K.	1,213	15,713	16,926
Others	17,013	30,965	47,978
India	5381*	97,165	102,546
Total	87,811	294,019	381,830

Source: Immigration Offices.

*Includes only from Kodari entry.

Chart 1 : Total Tourist Arrival For January - June, 2011-2012



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